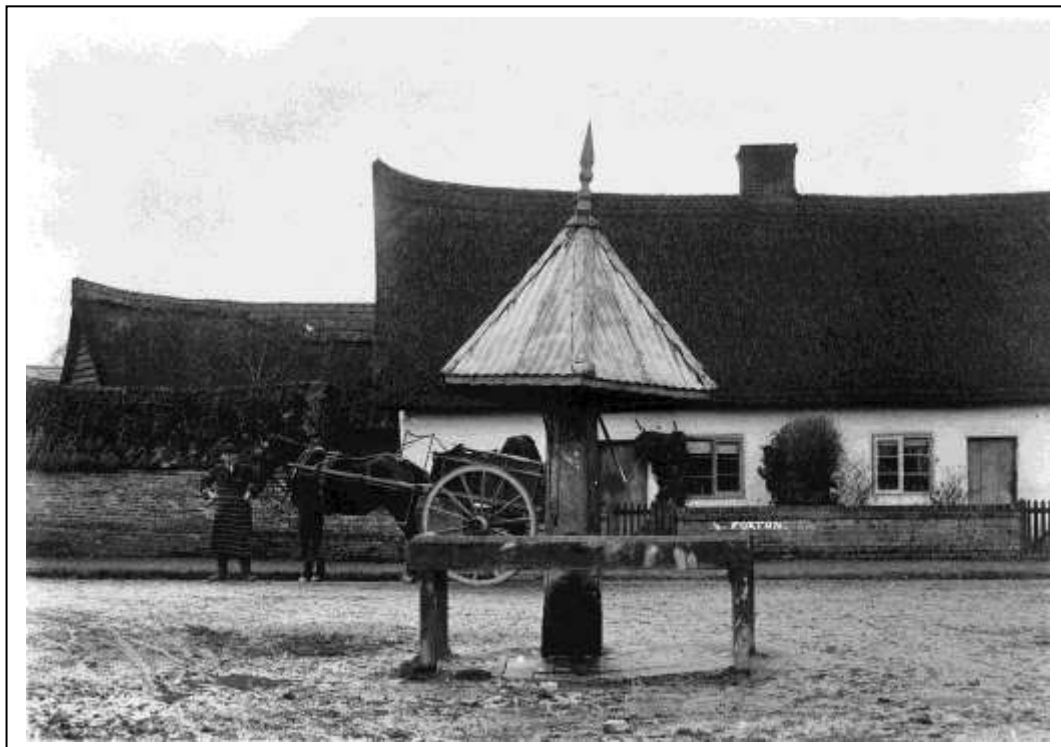


# Foxton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers  
summarised by

Mike Petty



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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at [bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection).

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

Looking Back – Foxton, compiled by Mike Petty

1903 08 03

Three additional cases of smallpox have been notified in Cambridge. In a large business house a young lady engaged in taking money became ill and the cause was traced to the money received into the establishment. Some businesses are now disinfecting coins as soon as they are received and none but disinfected coins are given in change. At Foxton the horticultural show has been postponed owing to an outbreak in the village.

1903 12 18

A new cement company is being floated under the title of 'The Foxton Cement Co.Ltd' with a share capital of £60,000. It will acquire about 93 acres of land adjoining the Foxton Hall Estate where experts have predicted there is an exceptionally good bed of cement marl. It is proposed to erect the most modern machinery capable of producing about 500 tons per week of first-class Portland cement. There is also a large deposit of chalk and a considerable trade is already being done with the gravel and sand on the surface.

1905 11 22

Large beds of watercress have been laid down at Fowlmere where water is raised by a dam to spread over the low-lying land. An industry of some dimensions has grown up and there is a growing demand from London. It is important that the protection of the law should be extended to those who have embarked capital and employ labour in this industry. George Hallworth summoned two Cambridge labourers for stealing two bags of cress. A porter at Foxton station said they had tried to take them into a carriage but as they were wet he had put them in the brakevan.05 11 22a & b

1908 06 05

Quite recently, the Burlington Press, which for a number of years carried on business in East Road, has removed to larger premises at Foxton. Dr Briggs, the founder of the business as an adjunct of the University Correspondence College entertained the entire staff to dinner inside the works and proposed a toast of 'Success to the University Tutorial Press' CWN 08 06 05 p6

1908 07 31

Cambridgeshire County Council have purchased a farm at Milton by auction and arranged to hire land at Guilden Morden and Isleham for use as smallholdings. They have also been offered 166 acres at Herod's Farm Foxton for £3,500. Petitions have been received from applicants urging the early acquisition of land in Over and Wicken CWN 08 07 31

1909 44 16

Mr Hickson of Foxton has received a letter from his four sons in Alberta, Canada. They are all well and happy and often go six miles across the snow on sledges. "Will went to the lake and caught as much pike and trout as he could carry home in his saddle bag. This makes a nice change from beef and pork and we also shot two prairie chickens. No boozing – the nearest pub is 25 miles away. When we came out here two years ago we did not see anyone from one end of the week to the other. Now we are getting surrounded by neighbours", they write. 09 04 16

1910 01 07

The Hon E.S. Montagu, Liberal MP for West Cambs had another busy evening when he addressed five meetings. The first was at Little Eversden, where they were not very civilised and where for the first time in seven years somebody threw a rotten egg at him which hit him on the side of the face. He also met with considerable opposition at Little Shelford with many

interruptions from members of the audience at the back of the room. But meetings at Barrington and Foxton were well-attended CWN 10 01 07a

1910 07 01

A little boy named Clifford Dawson, aged 7, who lives with his grandfather in Mill Road, set out to see the Fair on Saturday and did not turn up again. At first people did not worry but on Sunday morning inquiries were made of the police. Nothing was heard until Sunday night when he was brought home by train from Foxton, where he had been to see his mother. The little boy, who was only wearing light clothes and must have been out in the pouring rain, had apparently started out to walk to the village and had got a lift on the way 10 07 01c

1914 01 23

The headmistress of Foxton Council School having retired, the vacancy was advertised and Miss Hunnibell was selected by a majority vote of Managers. But when it became known she was a 'Roman' Catholic one Manager protested and the County Education Committee vetoed the appointment. However the other Managers confirmed their decision. Now the County has reopened the school with the retired headmistress once more in charge and have appointed one of the other candidates. Foxton Managers are now taking steps to have that decision quashed. 14 01 23

1914 01 23

Foxton school dispute over headmistress – history and Miss Hunnibell's letter – considers it on account of her religion and will take before NUT – 14 01 23a

1914 01 30

Foxton school headmistress-ship – 14 01 30d

1914 02 06

A meeting of Foxton Parish Council was held to consider the Headmistress-ship of the Council School, where a candidate elected by the Managers had been vetoed by the County. Only four councillors were present, not including the chairman who refused to attend saying this was a matter for the Managers. A resolution was seconded by the acting chairman when nobody else would do so. He did not like to do it but was acting on the precedent set at the last Council meeting when the chairman had voted twice for himself. 14 02 06h & i

1914 02 27

Foxton school dispute continues and the senior assistant has now handed in her resignation – 14 02 27

1914 09 11

Territorials – response, Caxton, Foxton, Meldreth, Eltisley, Godmanchester, Swaffham Prior, Whittlesford

1915 08 06

Photos of fallen soldiers: G.D. Salmon, Wisbech; G.C. Coote, Foxton; Capt R.E. Sindall, Cambridge; A.J. Coote, Barrington; L. Tuck; L/C Ryder; B. Rolph; S. Trotman; A.D. McPherson; H.H. Bendall; E.C. Colchester, Shelford; R.N. Bendyshe, Barrington; Capt Tebbutt; Hodson; W.J. Blane; E. Freeman; B. Carter, Bourn; Dunnett; - 15 08 06a

1919 04 02

Barrington-Foxton light railway – public inquiry; detailed report – 19 04 02b

1921 06 29

Foxton war memorial unveiled – 21 06 29a

1921 08 24

Capt Foster of Foxton Hall bankruptcy – 21 08 24f

1924 11 10

Councillor Hurrell said they wanted to establish central schools in the county instead of sending children into Cambridge. It would be cheaper and give a much more effective education. Ald Jackson said it seemed to him that the idea of having a central school at Foxton would never come into being. The main idea was to take the children from Shepreth and send them to Foxton, and the parents would not have it. The distance between the villages was a mile, the bigger children were able to walk that far. That was the main objection – they would be walking leather out all the time. The parents had a hard job to make ends meet without that extra expenditure on leather.

1928 04 10

The organisers at Foxton took the bold step of holding their garden fete on Easter Monday. In addition to many side-shows and stalls there was a football match, a push-ball match causing heaps of amusement, and a concert by Pearl Lambeth's Rosebuds who delighted the audience with their dainty work, whilst the fete was wound up with dancing in the evening. Foxton was not generally called a rich village, but it was rich with people who could work. The movement for collecting for the village hall was only started two years ago and they had already obtained £600

1928 05 18

The Vicar of Foxton has received remarkable letter from the Church Council requesting him to resign and, from the pulpit on Sunday he made a statement in reply. "The choir is at a standstill for the want of hymn books, the lead on the roof needs to be replaced, the heating apparatus is out of order, the gates are falling to pieces, the lamps are dangerous and a valuable old chest is falling to pieces. We have no parish clerk, no one to ring the bells, the clock is unwound, the churchyard a disgrace. When the Church Council have completed all these duties it will be time for them to turn their thoughts to throwing stones at their vicar".

1929 07 17

Foxton level crossing; proposed road Prickwillow to Isleham – CDN 17.7.29

1929 11 11

Foxton's new village hall, a substantially-built structure in the centre of the village, was opened by the chairman of the University Tutorial Press. It seemed only a short time since the formation of the committee. They were not a rich village, but they were rich in men and women ready to work for the village in which they lived. The hall would give them the opportunity of meeting together. A pleasure fair was held during the afternoon with 'pull the knob', 'hoop-la, bagatelle, tennis-ball throwing and hidden treasure. An evening variety concert was followed by a fancy dress and carnival dance to the music of January's band.

1935 08 22

A petrol station, café and several houses on the Cambridge Road at Foxton were menaced by a fire which started in the grass behind Capt. Martin's garage. The wind threatened to blow the flames on to the café premises and petrol pumps but good work by the brigade got it under control. It was the second outbreak at the same place except that the first was away from the buildings and the brigade was not sent in case of more serious calls and owing to the lack of water. Stacks were also destroyed at Fen Drayton when the flames travelling 'faster than a horse can gallop' spread a mile across country. 35 08 22

1938 01 12

Three football grounds have been closed by the Cambs FA following complaints. At Gamlingay a referee had been threatened with violence by spectators who followed him to the

dressings room, at Foxton a crowd had gathered round the ref, booing and shouting while at Barrington there'd been foul language during a match against the Railway Social team. The Council are determined to put a stop to such disorderly conduct. 38 01 12

***Newspapers not checked, at the date of this compilation until March 47***

1942 10 16

Golden wedding in Australia, - News has been received from Mount Morgan, Australia, of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Stock. The second son of the late Mr and Mrs. George Stock, of Foxton, Mr. Lewis George Stock left England for Australia in December, 1887, and was married to Miss Ellen West, of Rockhampton, on May 14, 1892. There are two sons and four daughters of the marriage, all of whom were present at a surprise party given in their parents' honour. There are six granddaughters and four grandsons. Mr. and Mrs. Stock paid a visit to England in 1923 to see the old homes. Both enjoyed the best of health, and received many congratulatory letters and telegrams.

1945 04 13

Foxton Fire. Earlier in the day the N.F.S. were summoned to an outbreak in an outhouse in High Street, Foxton, on property owned by Mr. Barnes. The shed was severely damaged but thanks to the firemen's efforts, there was only slight damage to the house nearby

1945 05 11

Stack Fires. — On Tuesday the N.F.S. were called out to deal with numerous stack fires outside Cambridge, mainly caused by VE-Day celebrations. The areas affected were Bourn, Toft, Gransden, Linton, Foxton, Wrestlingworth and Comberton. In some villages watch was kept by the N.F.S. to prevent the fires from spreading.

1945 10 26

Ploughing Match. — A ploughing match of the Sawston District Young Farmers' Club and the Hinxton, Ickleton and Duxford Ploughing Society was held on land belonging to Messrs. A. and L. Howe on Saturday, when there were 22 entries for the horse and tractor classes. The competitors found ploughing difficult, as the ground was hard. Refreshments on the field were provided by the president. The evening concluded with an entertainment by the Foxton Yokels Concert Party.

1946 12 07

A.G. Mackeggie of Foxton garage builds own motor car – 46 12 07

1951 11 24

Foxton station became a film set on Friday afternoon and the 2.08 pm Cambridge to London express was the chief “prop”. Instead of making its usual straight through run the train stopped at the station so that a scene could be shot for a documentary film being made for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. It tells the story of a young apprentice officer in the Merchant Navy and his life on an oil tanker. Taking the role is Roger Stokes of Foxton Hall who is actually an apprentice officer, and the scene shows him saying farewell to his parents as he leaves for London. The film will be presented in connection with recruiting drives.

1953 07 30

South Cambs RDC agreed to borrow £310,360 needed for a comprehensive water scheme designed to supply 17 parishes. At present the east area receives its piped water from Linton and the western area from the village of Croydon. The problem was to find a means of supplying the villages in the centre where eleven of the parishes including Barrington, Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Shepreth and Whittlesford have no piped water at all. A bore was sunk at Dottrell Hall, near Fowlmere, and they were rewarded with a source which will yield a million gallons a day.

1954 09 06

Rain. Steel slivers of relentless rain beat into the track anxious officials had nursed for Great Shelford's Special Sunday. Then the sun blazed for the War Memorial Hall sports day and carnival. More than 2,000 were there. Actress Jessie Matthews arrived quietly in her silver Bentley and was welcomed by the Chairman of the Parish Council. A carnival march heralded the arrival of the procession headed by a break-down truck towing a model of the present hall and the one villagers want to build. But then the breakdown truck had to leave for an accident at Foxton Station.

1955 09 14

Proposals to close Foxton railway station whilst keeping Harston open – which was used even less – drew protests from Councillors. During September 60 passengers used the station each week but this was a bad month for travel and prohibitive fares were the reason for the small number of passengers. Alternative bus services were far from adequate and there would be no prospect of halting the drift from the countryside to the town if the station closed. There was a great deal of development planned, which would result in a growth of population. 55 09 14

1958 11 10

Foxton Hall, which had been used by the Air Ministry as a hostel and is fully equipped for use as a school, guest house or residential club and stands in its own grounds of about six acres, was sold by auction for £8,100 by order of the Secretary of State for Air 58 11 10

62 02 13

Foxton Hall has been added to the ever-growing list of country mansions to be used for new purposes. It has been acquired by Dr H. Hurst to study his new technology for inserting a liquid damp-proof course into buildings which are being ruined by rising damp. Initial research was carried out at the Cambridge University Department of Colloid Science and continued at the Timber-proofing Laboratories at Trumpington. It has been employed at the Leys School, Bourn Vicarage and the Royal Oak public house at Stretham. 62 02 13a

1972 07 21

Improvement to the A10 trunk road, including bypasses for Melbourn and Buntingford, and new bridges at Littleport and Foxton have been announced by Whitehall. The bypasses should be started within the next 10 years and will cost in the region of £1 1/2 million. The Deputy County Surveyor for Cambridgeshire said "At Foxton there are continuing delays at the crossing gates and there are regular accidents. It has been a black spot for longer than I care to remember, and the only way to stop it is to do away with the crossing, and the only way to do that is to run a road bridge over it". The Chairman of the parish council said. "I am honestly very pleased at the news; it is a major step forward. The next thing will be to get the actual work done"

1976 01 31

The old signal box on the Cambridge to St Ives railway line at Oakington was loaded on to a lorry and taken to the Bressingham Steam Museum near Diss. The box, one of the few remaining Great Eastern types dating back to the early 1900s, was bought several years ago by railway enthusiast Mr Mike Sharman, who lives at Foxton. However he ran into snags when he wanted to move the box to his home so he presented it to the museum.

1979 12 24

Villagers at Harston, Hauxton and Foxton were spellbound as they watched a swarm of unidentified flying objects dodging around the sky but the entertainment turned to fear when a massive UFO hovered low past the village pub where the regulars called in the police. People hid away indoors rather than face the brilliant flashing lights and others drove off the road to avoid being under the flight paths. Police say there was no local flying and an astronomer said

that there had recently been a number of reports of unusual lights in the sky, though nothing like these

1980 07 26

Foxton it has tripled in size during the 25 years that Thomas Edis has been a parish councillor. He led the successful fight to save the railway station from Dr Beeching's axe and now many London commuters have helped swell the population to about 1,200 people. But his greatest achievement was the installation of street lighting in the mid 1950s – which had been under discussion since before the First World War. 80 07 26

1982 02 05

Gardeners' Question Time visited Foxton village hall with Bill Sowerbutts, Professor Alan Gemmell and Geoffrey Smith. It has been an occasion of high excitement to members of the Foxton Gardens Association who approached the BBC ten years ago. Villagers will be glued to their seats to hear whether Melville Gregory's question about composting rhubarb leaves, Jack Cox's concern with yellowing sprout leaves or Maude Ochs's query on plumbago will be aired. 82 02 05

1982 04 02

Welch's Garage at Stapleford has an excellent reputation but since they negotiated the Mazda dealership they have been looking for premises to expand. Now they have a completely new garage and showroom at Foxton which will specialise in Ford cars. It started with a wooden shed but now customers will find a purpose built showroom plus the usual service station facilities. They are very optimistic about the future and have had particular success with Fiat Magirusdeuts commercial vehicles. 82 04 02e

1984 10 17

Fire ripped through Foxton Hall after a massive explosion. Eye-witnesses reported seeing a ball of flame, believed to have been caused by an acetylene gas cylinder exploding. The Hall, which is more than 100 years old, was empty but being worked on as developers want to turn it into a hotel-cum-country club. Reports that children had been playing in a workman's hut where the fire started are being explored by police 84 10 17 p6

1985 03 20

Foxton village offered free hall 85 03 20

1985 10 24

Reg Badcock of Lode repairs cracked and broken church bells. He has made almost all the special equipment he needs from pieces of metal debris which fill every corner of his workshops. A few bells were experimentally repaired by the British Welding Institute at Abington, where he had worked for 25 years. But they were not prepared to carry on the task, so Reg took over. He has worked on bells from Abbotsley and Foxton. Each has its own character and markings but he clears away one his cluttered benches and solves the problem. The importance of his work is recognised nationally: amongst the jobs waiting for him is a bell from a church near Stratford-on-Avon. 85 10 24c & d

1987 11 19

Burlington Press, Foxton, install new machine 87 11 19b & c

1988 04 29

Alan Bennett came to Cambridge in 1953 as part of his National Service to learn Russian with a view to getting into the Intelligence Service. He was based at Douglas House in Trumpington Road and stayed in digs at Foxton and Newnham Terrace. He remembers many hours doing his work in the city library opposite the Corn Exchange. It left him with an



abiding affection for Cambridge though now, he says, it has lost a lot of its simple charm and the traffic problems seem as bad as anywhere. 88 04 29a

1988 12 28

Foxton based Millers Coaches is taking over several major routes in Cambridge following revised legislation relating to bus services. The biggest impact on travellers has been the introduction of the popular 'Noddy Bus' with its low floors and wide doors making it popular with pensioners and young mums with children and pushchairs. Soon they will take delivery of a fleet of Leyland Lynx buses which each carry 51 passengers. 88 12 28c

1989 03 15

Rowland Parker, a retired schoolmaster, started writing after he moved to an attractive 15th-century cottage at Foxton and began digging into its background. His interest turned into an obsession and led to his first book, "The Cottage on the Green" in 1974. A year later he produced 'The Common Stream' about the village itself which became a best seller in Britain and America. Three more books followed making him one of Cambridgeshire's best-known and respected authors 89 03 15b

1989 07 01

Foxton Village Stores and Great Paxton Post Office reach semi-finals of Independent Grocer of the Year Award – 89 07 01